

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 ARA-06 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01
NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01
OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /124 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6445
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0111

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UN PARM MP
SUBJECT: UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

REF: STATE 26795

1. EMBASSY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL CONCERN-
ING GOM'S STANCE ON DISARMAMENT ISSUE IN GENERAL WHICH WILL
PROBABLY AFFECT ITS POSITION IN THE SSOD. WE KNOW LITTLE
ABOUT THE GOM ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SSOD AND SUSPECT THAT PRO-
FOUND AND WELL-COORDINATED POLICY POSITION HAS NOT RPT NOT
BEEN FULLY WORKED OUT AS YET.

2. BASED ON ASSESSMENT OF PAST POLICIES, GOM'S PRIMARY SPECIAL
INTEREST IN DISARMAMENT FIELD REMAINS THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE
OF PEACE (IOZP) PROPOSAL. CURRENTLY, THE GOM DOES NOT TAKE
A SPECIFICALLY ANTI-US POSITION, BUT INSISTS THAT ALL MAJOR
POWERS-- SUCH AS THE US, USSR, AND FRANCE-- SHOULD REMOVE
THEIR MILITARY PRESENCE (BASES) FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN. THIS
DOES NOT EXTEND TO INDIA, WHICH IS A LITTORAL STATE AND WITH
WHICH THE GOM WISHES TO MAINTAIN ITS CLOSE TIES. MAURITIUS
IS LIKELY TO ATTEMPT TO USE THE SSOD TO ADVANCE THE IOZP
PROPOSAL, AND WILL POSSIBLY TRY TO GET IT FORMALLY APPROVED
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AND IMPLEMENTED.

3. THE GOM HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST IN SEEING DIEGO GARCIA
DEMILITARIZED, SINCE IT USED TO BELONG TO MAURITIUS AND THE
GOM STILL CLAIMS THE ISLAND'S MINERAL RIGHTS. THE PRESENCE
OF THE U.S. NAVY ON DIEGO GARCIA IS BEING CONSTANTLY ATTACKED
BY THE GOM'S CHIEF, AND MOST POLITICALLY INFLUENTIAL OPPONENT

-- THE MARXIST-ORIENTED MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM).
THUS IF IT COULD SOMEHOW ACHEIVE THE "DEMILITARIZATION" OF
THE INDIAN OCEAN THROUGH THE SSOD, THE GOM WOULD THEREBY
ALLEVIATE ONE OF ITS SERIOUS DOMESTIC POLITICAL VULNERABILITIES.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE GOM'S
POSITION AT THE SSOD WILL BE MAURITIUS' UN PERMREP,
RADHA RAMPHUL, WHO IS LIKELY TO REPRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT AT
THIS CONFERENCE. HIS ERRATIC, UNPREDICTABLE, AND UNRELIABLE
NATURE IS WELL KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT AND USUN. STILL,
RAMPHUL IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW RATHER THAN LEAD ANY AFRICAN
CONSENSUS. IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT MAURITIUS IS A SMALL AND
NOT VERY INFLUENTIAL STATE WHEN COMPARED WITH OTHERS IN THE
AF GROUP NAMED TO THE PREPCOM. THOUGH MAURITIUS CURRENTLY
HOLDS THE OAU CHAIRMANSHIP, THIS EXPIRES IN JUNE.

5. OUR BEST TACTIC ON THE IOZP MIGHT BE TO STRESS THE SOVIET
PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, TO INSIST THAT ANY SUCH PROPOSAL
APPLY EQUALLY TO ALL, AND TO EMPHASIZE OUR GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES
IN THE MAINTENANCE OF WORLD PEACE.
KEELEY

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